



**Budget Amendment
CITY OF AUSTIN
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION**

AGENDA ITEM NO.: 7
AGENDA DATE: Thu 02/16/2006
PAGE: 1 of 2

SUBJECT: Approve an ordinance amending the Fiscal Year 2005-2006 Emergency Medical Services Fee Schedule of Ordinance No. 20050912-004 to approve changes consistent with the Medicare National Ambulance Fee Schedule and add fees for specialized procedures.

AMOUNT & SOURCE OF FUNDING: N/A

FISCAL NOTE: There is no unanticipated fiscal impact. A fiscal note is not required.

REQUESTING DEPARTMENT: Emergency Medical Services **DIRECTOR'S AUTHORIZATION:** Richard Herrington

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: Richard Herrington, Executive Director, 972-7200

PRIOR COUNCIL ACTION: The FY 2005-2006 Operating Budget was approved on first reading, September 12, 2005.

BOARD AND COMMISSION ACTION: N/A

In April 2002 the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), the federal organization that administers the Medicare and Medicaid insurance programs, began phasing in a National Ambulance Fee Schedule. The goal of the National Ambulance Fee Schedule was to standardize and simplify the process for ambulance services filing claims to Medicare. Due to the significance of the changes, Medicare slowly phased in its aspects over a multi-year period.

The National Ambulance Fee Schedule became fully implemented beginning in January 2006, and with its implementation the Austin-Travis County Emergency Medical Services (ATCEMS) Department is requesting to make changes to its fee schedule to be consistent with Medicare billing guidelines, and in addition, add new fees for specialized procedures. The changes include adjusting the Basic Life Support (BLS) base rate to coincide with new Medicare requirements; and adding fees for specialty equipment that has become operational for ground units and/or STAR Flight due to new clinical operating guidelines.

These changes will have only a minimal impact on the amount of revenue collected by EMS from billing insurance and individuals. Changing the BLS rate simply maintains revenues at their current levels, and the new fees for the new procedures are for specialized situations and services.

	FY 2005-2006 Approved Fee	FY 2005-2006 Amended Fee	
Basic Life Support Base Fee	\$310.00	\$415.00	
Sam Sling Pelvic Splint	\$0.00	\$72.99	New
Transpac Line Monitor	\$0.00	\$14.32	New
Thermal Angel	\$0.00	\$68.25	New
CPAP Procedure Pack	\$0.00	\$35.00	New



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CPAP Valve	\$0.00	\$6.50	New
EZ IO Needles	\$0.00	\$99.99	New
Capnography	\$0.00	\$8.26	New
Cricothyrotomy Set	\$0.00	\$126.30	New

ORDINANCE NO.

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2005-2006 EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES FEE SCHEDULE OF ORDINANCE NO. 20050912-004 TO CONFORM CERTAIN FEES WITH THE MEDICARE NATIONAL AMBULANCE FEE SCHEDULE.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

PART 1. The Council amends the Fiscal Year 2005-2006 Emergency Medical Services Fee Schedule of Ordinance No. 20050912-004 in order to adjust fees to conform to the Medicare National Ambulance Fee Schedule and to add fees for specialized services as follows:

	FY 2005-2006 Approved Fee	FY 2005-2006 Amended Fee
Basic Life Support Base Fee	[\$ 310.00]	\$ 415.00
<u>Sam Sling Pelvic Splint</u>		\$ 72.99
<u>Transpac Line Monitor</u>		\$ 14.32
<u>Thermal Angel</u>		\$ 68.25
<u>CPAP Procedure Pack</u>		\$ 35.00

PART 2. This ordinance takes effect on _____, 2006.

PASSED AND APPROVED

_____, 2006

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Will Wynn
Mayor

APPROVED: _____
David Allan Smith
City Attorney

ATTEST: _____
Shirley A. Gentry
City Clerk